



VA Medical Center  
510 Butler Avenue  
Martinsburg, WV 25405  
[www.martinsburg.va.gov](http://www.martinsburg.va.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/martinsburgvamc](https://www.facebook.com/martinsburgvamc)  
[www.twitter.com/martinsburgvamc](https://www.twitter.com/martinsburgvamc)



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 3, 2014

Contact:  
Mike McAleer  
304-264-4482  
Cell: 304-596-7198  
[michael.mcaleer2@va.gov](mailto:michael.mcaleer2@va.gov)

### Operation Veteran's Respite

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) has taken action to prepare for the anticipated record breaking cold weather forecasted for Monday, Jan. 6 and Tuesday, Jan. 7. The acting medical center director, Timothy J. Cooke, has activated "Operation Veteran's Respite."

"The mission of this operation is to provide a warm, safe environment for homeless Veterans under a humanitarian basis during this extreme cold weather event. The medical center will be providing food, warm showers and medical care if needed." said acting medical center director Timothy J. Cooke.

If you or someone you know is a homeless Veteran and is in need of a warm place to sleep and a hot meal, please call 1-877-424-3838.

On any given night, there are an estimated 100,000 Veterans on the streets, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki said. "Those who have served this nation as Veterans should never find

**-more-**

## 222 – Operation Veteran’s Respite

themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope.” The Secretary has set a goal, to end Veteran homelessness by 2015.

For more information on Veteran Homelessness, visit the VA Homeless Veterans website at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless).

*The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the medical center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women’s health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 130,000 Veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the medical center operates four VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Fort Detrick, Md., and Stephens City, Va. and three contract clinics in Franklin and Petersburg, W. Va. and Harrisonburg, Va.*